



Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart.”

### **Course Text: Nahum**

Nahum is a little book of prophecy against Nineveh, the same city which repented at the preaching of Jonah. We know very little of the prophet Nahum, except that he was an Elkoshite, and we do not know where that place was located. Some argue for it being in Galilee, perhaps even Capernaum, where Jesus began his ministry. Others argue somewhere in the region closer to the city of Nineveh. Others have different ideas.

We see at the beginning of the book that this is a vision from God. He wrote shortly before the destruction of Nineveh in 612 B.C. Israel had long before been taken into captivity. In just a few more years Judah would also be taken away. The words of the book are very strong as the prophet describes this sinful city. We cannot help but remember the words of Jonah hundreds of years before which brought about the repentance of this same place. And yet this poetic and forceful message is apparently ignored, since Nineveh did suffer all the evil prophesied in this little book. It has also been suggested that the people of Nineveh never heard this prophecy; because it was given in Judah, which was at that time under the rule of Nineveh. This is possible, but I believe it much more likely that Nineveh had every chance to repent, and did not, leading to their ruin 612 B.C.

### **These Geography facts will help in understanding Nahum**

Assyria – Ancient empire whose religious capital was Asshur and political capital was Nineveh. At the time of Nahum it covered Mesopotamia, most of Asia Minor, Syria, Judah, Lebanon, Israel and all the parts in between such as the area of modern Jordan.

Bashan – Region of ancient Israel now called the Golan Heights

Carmel – Region west of Galilee around Mt. Carmel

Egypt – Nation in Northeast Africa where Nile reaches the sea.

Ethiopia – Nation in eastern Africa south of Egypt

Jerusalem – Capital city of Judah

Judah – Nation formed from the tribes of Judah, Simeon and Benjamin

Lebanon – Nation on the coast of the Mediterranean to the north of Judah.

Lubim – Some say this is the name of the people who lived in Put, others think it was another country in North Africa in the North part of modern Sudan.

Mesopotamia – the region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers

Nile – Major river in Africa

Nineveh – Political capital of the Assyrian Empire

No-amon – City that used to be on the Nile River before God destroyed it. Better known by the name of Thebes

Put – African nation to the west of Egypt. Modern Libya. (Also called Phut)

### **Suggested methodology:**

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on page 5. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the Nahum.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about two hours.

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## Nahum Chapters 1 to 3

**Nahum 1** The 1st chapter gives us a lesson in the wrath and power of the Lord. The prophet explains that it is the Lord who is in charge in all things on the earth. He states that the Lord is a refuge in time of trouble, yet that will not save Nineveh. The city is vile and there is a grave prepared for this people. Please read Nahum chapter 1 and answer the following questions:

- [1A] The Lord saves his wrath for who? \_\_\_\_\_
- [1B] What are dust beneath the Lord's feet? \_\_\_\_\_
- [1C] What happens to the sea if the Lord rebukes it? \_\_\_\_\_
- [1D] What is the Lord in the day of trouble? \_\_\_\_\_
- [1E] What happens to plans made against the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_ 9
- [1F] Who plots evil against the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_
- [1G] Who issued a command to set Judah free? \_\_\_\_\_

**Nahum 2** Chapter 2 speaks of the army that the Lord has prepared to overrun Nineveh and the great struggle that is about to take place. The army is described in the most colorful terms, and the destruction of the city is pictured in simple detail. The greatest statement of this chapter is "I am against you," declares the Lord Almighty. If we can only hear this message clearly as the word is spoken to other nations, we will find one of the great motives of repentance. Please read Nahum chapter 2 and answer the following questions:

- [2A] Who will restore the splendor of Jacob? \_\_\_\_\_
- [2B] What color are the shields of the mighty men? \_\_\_\_\_
- [2C] What races through the streets of the city? \_\_\_\_\_
- [2D] What happens to the river gates? \_\_\_\_\_
- [2E] What happens to Nineveh's treasure? \_\_\_\_\_
- [2F] What happens to the voice of the messengers? \_\_\_\_\_

**Nahum 3** The 3rd chapter shows us a people who have worshiped the idols and forsaken Jehovah. This people are to be destroyed like other nations who have done such things. Nineveh cannot be protected, the people have chosen to sin with no true repentance, and now the price must be paid. The people are challenged to look at the weakness of their army and realize they are like insects, and can provide no true defense against God. Man often takes on God, but God never loses! Please read Nahum chapter 3 and answer the following questions:

- [3A] What was Nineveh full of? \_\_\_\_\_
- [3B] How many dead bodies were there? \_\_\_\_\_
- [3C] On what city is devastation and destruction prophesied? \_\_\_\_\_
- [3D] Nineveh is compared to another city which could not endure God's wrath. What city? \_\_\_\_\_
- [3E] Nineveh's fortifications are compared to what? \_\_\_\_\_
- [3F] Nineveh's destruction is compared to three destructive forces. What? \_\_\_\_\_

----- ANSWERS -----

- [1A] The Lord saves his wrath for who? His enemies Na 1:2  
[1B] What are dust beneath the Lord's feet? The clouds Na 1:3  
[1C] What happens to the sea if the Lord rebukes it? It dries up Na 1:4  
[1D] What is the Lord in the day of trouble? A stronghold Na 1:7  
[1E] What happens to plans made against the Lord? He will make a complete end of it Na 1:9  
[1F] Who plots evil against the Lord? A wicked counselor Na 1:11  
[1G] Who issued a command to set Judah free? The Lord Na 1:14-15
- [2A] Who will restore the splendor of Jacob? The Lord Na 2:2  
[2B] What color are the shields of the mighty men? Red Na 2:3  
[2C] What races through the streets of the city? Chariots Na 2:4  
[2D] What happens to the river gates? They are opened Na 2:6 There was a river running through Nineveh running right under the wall. To break into the city the attackers dammed up the river and went in where the river wasn't anymore.  
[2E] What happens to Nineveh's treasure. It was plundered Na 2:9  
[2F] What happens to the voice of the messengers? It is not longer heard Na 2:13
- [3A] What was Nineveh full of? Lies and pillage Na 3:1 (It means the people who lived there were liars and armed robbers with blood on their hands.)  
[3B] How many dead bodies were there? Too many to count Na 3:3  
[3C] On what city is devastation and destruction prophesied? Nineveh Na 3:7-19  
[3D] Nineveh is compared to another city which could not endure God's wrath. What city? No-amon Na 3:8-10  
[3E] Nineveh's fortifications are compared to what? Ripe figs, ready to fall Na 3:12  
[3F] Nineveh's destruction is compared to three destructive forces. What? fire, sword, locust Na 3:15



(1) Compare Nahum 1:2 with Nahum 1:7. How can both of these very different descriptions of the Lord both be true?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(2) In Nahum 3:1 it says that Nineveh is full of lies. How can a city be full of lies?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(3) Could Nahum 3:19 apply to Satan as well as Nineveh? Why or why not?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(4) If someone asked you what Nahum was about what would you say?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(5) How can the lessons of Nahum be applied to our own life?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(6) Which verse or passage would you select to memorize from Nahum? Why?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions about Nahum, now is the time to discuss them with your classmates.

----- ANSWERS -----

**(1) IS GOOD GOD OR AVENGING & JEALOUS:** If I stick a knife in your heart I am evil. If a heart surgeon does it to save your life it is not. It is wrong for us to be jealous because we deserve nothing. It is wrong for us to avenge because that is God's prerogative. God is good, avenging and jealous.

**(2) CITY OF LIES:** A city can be full of liars. Certainly any city has liars and all of us sometimes fall into this sin. But I think a city full of lies would be one where lying had become so rampant and out of control that the truth had become almost impossible to ascertain.

**(3) NINEVEH OR SATAN:** Nahum was talking about Nineveh. Certainly what he says is also true of Satan but there is no reason to suppose this verse is meant to be an allusion to Satan.

**(4) Nahum Summary** Nahum is a little book of prophecy against Nineveh, the same city which repented at the preaching of Jonah. The words of the book are very strong as the prophet describes this sinful city. We cannot help but remember the words of Jonah hundreds of years before which brought about the repentance of this same place. And yet this poetic and forceful message is apparently ignored, since Nineveh did suffer all the evil prophesied in this little book.

**(5) Nahum Life Application** God is patient, but his patience does have an end to it. We should not test how long He will put up with our evil behavior, but seek to constantly yield ourselves to His nurture and admonition that we might yield Spiritual fruit for His kingdom.

**(6) Something to Remember** Nahum 1:13 "So now, I will break his yoke bar from upon you, and I will tear off your shackles."

**The Back Pew - Jeff Larson**



I will throw filthy garbage on you, and make a foul of you. **Naham 3:6**